Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-22, 24-41, 43-57, and 59-68 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 24, 28, 31, 35, 38, 43, 46, 49, 51, 54, 60, 63, and 66 being the independent claims. Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 26-30, 32-34, 36-37, 39-41, 45, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 55-57, 59, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, and 68 are sought to be amended. Claims 23, 42, and 58 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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